

CEIRIOG RURAL DISTRICT

COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

C.E.Salt, J.P., M.B., Ch.B., (Chirk District)

Ian G.M.Firth, M.B., Ch.B., (Llansilin District)

including

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

R.W.Aubrey, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER

1939.



CEIRIOG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Office,

CHIRK.

14th September 1940.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

This Annual Report covering the year ended the 31st December 1939 deals with a year which from a Public Health point of view has been momentous, a complete record of which would be invaluable, but due to the need for strict economy in the use of paper the Welsh Board of Health has issued instructions that only interim reports are to be made for the year under review. This is rather unfortunate, as full details have been prepared for the usual comprehensive Annual Report. It is hoped however, that some of the matters omitted may be dealt with at a future date.

As the report has to be confined to essential and urgent matters we propose to give brief notes on the outstanding features of the work of the year.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year Measles and Whooping Cough have been made notifiable infectious diseases.

There have been no epidemics in the district, and the following shows the numbers of cases notified and removed to hospital.

	Notified.	Removed to hospital.
Scarlet	10	10
Diphtheria.	5	5
Pneumonia.	1	
Cerebro Spinal		
Meningitis.	1	1
Measles.	1	
Whooping Cough.	1	
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	6	
" Non- "	1	1

Water Supplies.

Chirk. It has been fortunate that during 1939 the quantity of water available from the springs was sufficient to meet the needs of the district. A 3" diameter Cast Iron main was laid extending the existing main along Halton Terrace to meet developments due to the provision of water closets, baths and wash houses to fifty houses in this district.

Pandy. Work in connection with this scheme was commenced in April 1939 and by the end of the year a considerable portion of the mains had been laid and works commenced at the Intake, Filter House and Reservoir. Due to war conditions difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies of some materials and in a few cases there has been increased costs. Due to the proximity of large government contracts difficulty has been experienced in obtaining unskilled labour, which will delay the completion of the works.

Llansilin. The work of providing a new reservoir and mains to this scheme was carried out during the year at a cost of £1,733. 11. 3.

All other Council owned water supply schemes in the area are in order.

### Sewerage.

No works of sewerage or sewage disposal have been carried out during the year and the joint sewerage and sewage disposal scheme with the Oswestry Rural District has been abandoned for the duration of the work.

In consequence of the works of improvement being carried out at Halton (provision of baths, wash houses and water closets) it will very soon be necessary to re-construct the small sewage disposal works in this district.

### Scavenging.

The regional scavenging scheme continues to give excellent service, the total costs for the year being £597. 0. 4.

Llanfelin and Llanrhaiadr continue to be scavenged by contract.

### Public Conveniences.

Ladies and Gents. public conveniences were erected at Glynceiriog during 1939.

### Housing.

#### Provision of New Houses.

Four houses have been erected at Banhadla Cottages, Pentrefelin by Mr William Gittins, Rhos for the sum of £1.722. 12. 6.

#### Back-to-back and Back-to-earth Houses.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out providing for the repair and reconditioning or scheduling for demolition of houses of these types and the following shows the position at 3. 12. 1939.-

	Back-to-Back.	Back-to-Earth.
Total No. in district.	24.	147.
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No. of houses in respect of which owners have been interviewed.	22.	93.
No. of houses in respect of which proposals have been submitted.	Nil.	41.
No. of proposals completed.	Nil.	6.
No. of houses vacated.	Nil.	3.

Due to present wartime conditions much of the useful spade work in connection with the improvement of houses of this type will, we fear, not bear fruit, but we are hopeful for better times when this task may be resumed.

#### Housing (Repairs Account).

The following figures show the expenditure for the year ended the 31st March 1940.

No. of houses.	Total Rent Income.			To Credit Repairs a/c.			To Debit Repairs a/c.			Average cost per house.		
	£.	s	d	£.	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
239.	4036.	13.	4	778.	15.	10	1073.	11.	2	4.	10.	0

The extraordinary heavy expenditure is accounted for by reason of the following -

- Repairs necessary to rainwater troughings etc. and burst water pipes caused by exceptionally bad weather in Jan-Feb. 1940.
- A scheme for the installation, out of revenue, of 50 new grates in Council Houses which was completed at a cost of £500. 10. 9 over £300 of this amount being included in the accounts for the year ended 31. 3. 1940.
- A painting contract for the external painting of 75 houses at a cost of £176. 5. 0



Milk Supply. The number of Wholesale and Retail Milk Producers at the end of 1939 was 163 as compared with 158 at the end of the previous year. Of this number 12 are licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 2 of these producing Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Meat Supply. Towards the end of the year all private slaughtering of animals for sale for human consumption was prohibited, and a government controlled scheme introduced under which central slaughterhouses were established. By this scheme meat for sale in Chirk and the Glyn Valley was slaughtered at Ruabon, and for Llansilin and Llanrhaiadr at Llanfyllin. At the commencement of the scheme there was much to be desired in the method of distribution of meat from the central slaughterhouses and many complaints were received. This matter was taken up with the authorities concerned and an improvement resulted.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS. This phase of Local Government work was mentioned in the Annual Report for 1938, but we are sure that those of us who were engaged in the humble beginning of this period did not foresee the vast amount of voluntary effort which would devolve upon those public spirited men and women of the area who volunteered their services for this work. We take this opportunity of expressing appreciation to all who have undergone courses of training for the various services, and it speaks volumes when we say that the number who have been trained is far in excess of the number so far required. The A.R.P. Services are under the control of Col. H.A. Bromilow and are divided into the following heads: (1) Wardens Services. (2) Casualty Services. (3) Control Centre Staff and Messengers. (1) The wardens services comprise about 65 trained personnel under the Head Warden, Mr D. Hulse, covering the district from Four Warden's Posts, divided into Nine Sectors. - The Mount, Chirk under Mr D. Hulse. (with 4 sectors). Glyn Quarries Ltd., Office, Glynceiriog under Miss B. Crosland. (with 3 sectors). Police Station, Llansilin under Dr L. Wynne Davies. Gwalla, Llanrhaiadr under Mr W.L. Williams. The Wardens have very successfully undertaken the assembly and distribution of over 7,200 gas masks in the area. (2) Casualty Services. a). Reserve First Aid Post - Chirk Hospital. b). First Aid Points at Chirk, Glynceiriog, Llansilin & Llanrhaiadr. c). Ambulance Services at Chirk and Llanrhaiadr with two cars for sitting cases at Chirk. (3) Control Centre Staff & Messengers. The control centre is at Black Park Colliery Offices which have been equipped and staffed for this purpose, and is the nerve centre for the A.R.P. System of the district and is under the control of Mr Wilfred Williams.

#### Government Evacuation Scheme.

In September the Government Evacuation Scheme was put into operation by which this Rural District received children and Mothers with young children from the Broad Green district of Liverpool. There was a very rapid drift of the mothers with children back to Liverpool due to the inability of the mothers to adopt themselves to the rural surroundings. The following figures show the position at the time of the commencement of the scheme and at 31st December 1939.

	Evacuated.		Left in district		
	M.	Ch.	31. 12.	30.	
No of mothers and children under school age.	79	105	9	10	
No of Schoolchildren		328		187	
No of Teachers, Helpers etc.		40		23	

The children were from Broad Green and Highfield Schools under the charge of the Headmistress (Mrs Henderson) and Headmaster (Mr Bond) respectively. On arrival, the children were given light refreshments at the Parish Hall, Chirk under the supervision of the Women's Voluntary Service and members of the Chirk Parish Council. Iron rations, sufficient for 48 hours were distributed. After all evacuees had been registered, they were conveyed to billeting centres in various parts of the district by buses which were arranged by representatives of the Denbigh County Council. From the billeting centres local voluntary arrangements were made by the Women's Voluntary Service and Women's Institute.

Welfare Committees were set up at various parts of the district. After minor adjustments billets were most satisfactory.

For a time children attended school under the Shift System in conjunction with the local school children, each attending school morning or afternoon periods on alternate weeks. As the number of evacuees diminished, it was possible to make arrangements for full-time schooling in the local schools except in the case of Chirk where the Parish Hall was utilised for the evacuees.

The health of the children was supervised by Welfare Workers from Liverpool and was uniformly good. A Clinic was established for the treatment of verminous heads and bed-wetting of which there were several cases, which it is satisfactory to report that most of these cases rapidly improved. Billets were visited by the Welfare Worker and minor difficulties smoothed out. Many of the children possessed few clothes but this was remedied by contributions from the Public Assistance Committees in Liverpool and gifts from local donors and organisations.

Through the kindness of Lord Howard de Walden "Berwyn Cottage", Chirk was suitably furnished as a social centre which was of great convenience.

During the Xmas holidays parties were arranged for the children throughout the district and social activities provided for their welfare.

May we take this opportunity of saying how very proud we are of the householders throughout the district who billeted evacuees. Only those who have seen and heard for themselves can realise the great sacrifices which have been made by those who have taken evacuees into their homes and given them of their best, often at a considerable personal and monetary expense. So far indeed, the reception areas have played an admirable part at the 'Home Front'; and if we in the rural districts have learnt only how ignorance, dirt and disease still prevails in our industrial cities, then the evacuation scheme will not have been a failure, even if every evacuee returns home.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, we wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to yourselves, your Clerk, Sanitary Inspectors and all Voluntary Workers for their unfailing help and support at all times and to assure you of our desire to promote the Public Health of the district.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

Chas. E. Salt, J.P., M.B., Ch.B.  
Ian G. M. Firth, M.D., Ch.B.

Medical Officers of Health.